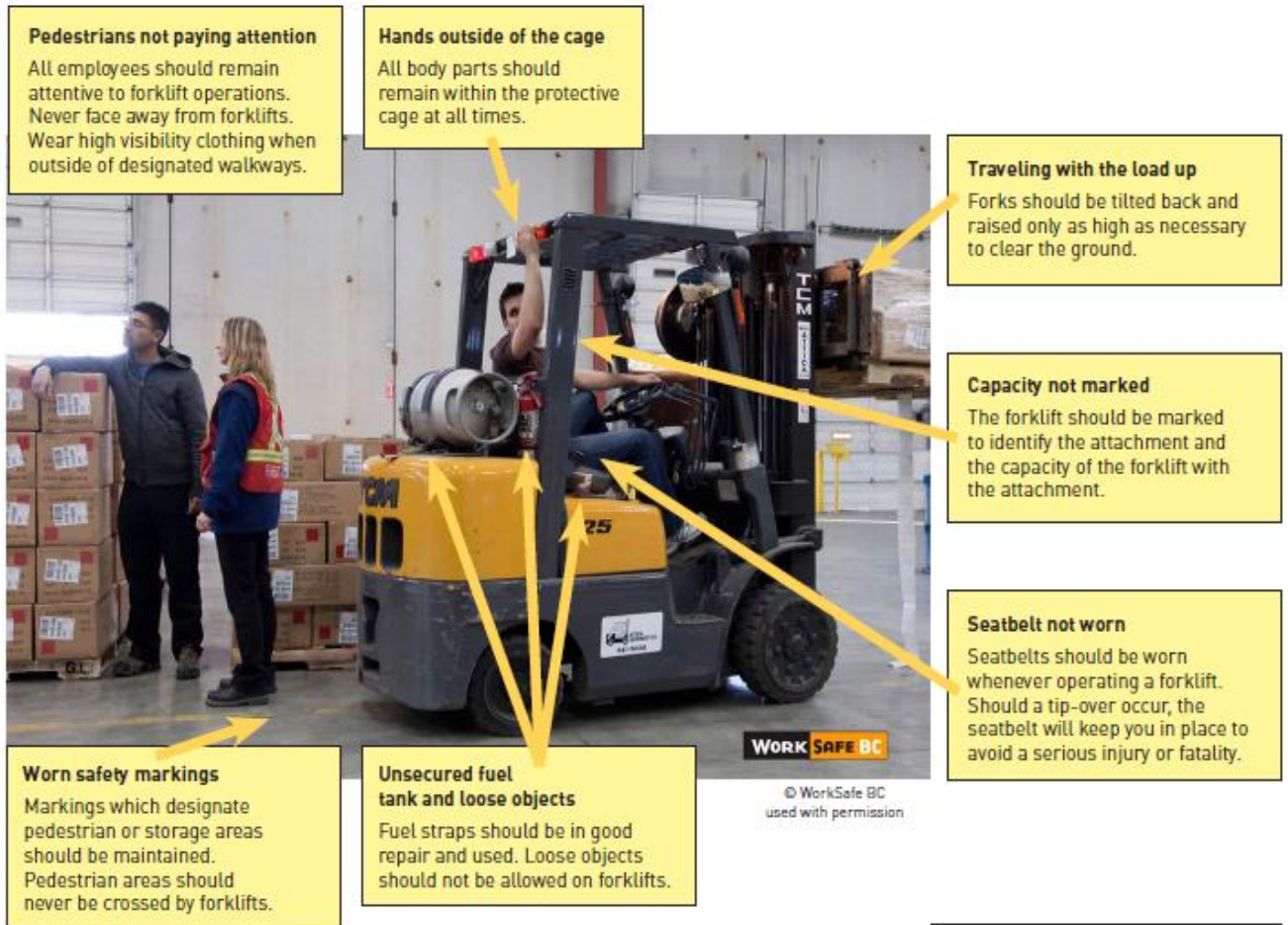


Forklifts or powered industrial trucks are common at many workplaces. How safely they are operated can have a major impact on worker safety and the prevention of accidents. While conducting safety committee inspections, be observant of forklift operator actions and pedestrians.

29 CFR 1910.178



Pedestrians not paying attention
All employees should remain attentive to forklift operations. Never face away from forklifts. Wear high visibility clothing when outside of designated walkways.

Hands outside of the cage
All body parts should remain within the protective cage at all times.

Traveling with the load up
Forks should be tilted back and raised only as high as necessary to clear the ground.

Capacity not marked
The forklift should be marked to identify the attachment and the capacity of the forklift with the attachment.

Seatbelt not worn
Seatbelts should be worn whenever operating a forklift. Should a tip-over occur, the seatbelt will keep you in place to avoid a serious injury or fatality.

Worn safety markings
Markings which designate pedestrian or storage areas should be maintained. Pedestrian areas should never be crossed by forklifts.

Unsecured fuel tank and loose objects
Fuel straps should be in good repair and used. Loose objects should not be allowed on forklifts.

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Training and evaluation

Forklift operators are required to have classroom and hands-on training, plus an evaluation to determine their competency in operating a forklift. The employer must certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated. Also, operators need to be re-evaluated at least once every three years.

Conduct refresher training:

- Following a forklift accident or near-miss
- When the operator is observed operating the forklift in an unsafe manner
- When the operator is assigned to a different type of forklift
- When a change in the workplace that could affect safe forklift operations

Additional forklift guidelines

- Always operate the forklift at a speed that will allow it to stop safely.
- Forklift operators should slow down and honk at cross aisles and other areas where vision is obstructed.
- Before getting off the forklift, make sure to lower the forks, neutralize the controls, and set the brakes.